

REMARKS

A reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 14, 15 and 17 are of record in the application and stand under Final Rejection for the following reasons:

1. Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by USP '568 for the reasons of record set forth in the Office Action of Oct. 2, 2002.

2. Claims 14, 15 and 17 stand rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by USP '417 for the reasons of record set forth in the Office Action of Oct. 2, 2002.

3. Claims 12, 14, 15 and 17 are rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP '417 in view of USP'753 for reasons of record in the Office Action of Oct. 2, 2002.

A reconsideration of these rejections particularly in the light of the proposed amendment to Claim 17 is respectfully requested.

In each of the rejections, Applicant's arguments have been considered non-persuasive because the claims fail to:

(a) define how the amino group is substituted onto the "A" group, and

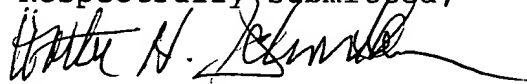
(b) recite the cross-linking of a hyaluronic acid molecule with another hyaluronic acid molecule.

Claim 17, 12, 14 and 15, have now been amended to include these two limitations in the light of which, it is respectfully submitted, Applicant's arguments in the Response of December 27, 2002 become more pertinent and should be deemed sufficiently

persuasive to remove the rejections. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the several rejections is respectfully requested.

An early reconsideration and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Walter H. Schneider", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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